

THE  
PRINCESS  
OF  
Monpensier.

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Written Originally in  
French, and now newly  
rendered into English.

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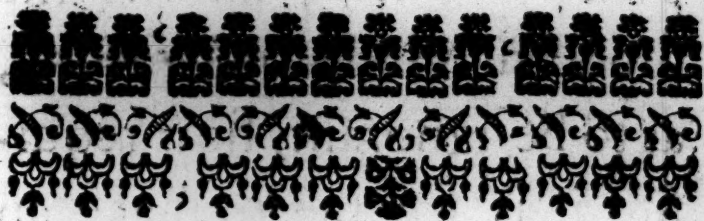
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THE  
TRANSLATOR  
TO THE  
READER.

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Hough generally  
all Translations  
merit an excuse,  
and though I am  
not so much a stranger to my

own inabilities, and to the  
modern Mode of Writing,  
as to be ignorant, how requi-  
site it is for me to make an  
Apology for my self, and to  
beg Pardon for this attempt;  
yet I shall at present take the  
liberty upon me, neither to  
perform the one, nor the  
other: since, if good, the Tran-  
slation deserves no excuse;  
and if bad, it merits no Par-  
don. I shall only inform the  
Reader, that this Translation  
is owing to some vacant  
hours,

hours, and to a Friends request, who having commended the Book to me, & desiring me to translate it, I confess at first (through the small esteem which I have ever had for Romances, since I understood better Books) I made some difficulty to grant his request; But being informed (though the French Stationer, out of his respect to persons descended from those mentioned in this Relation, endeavours to perswade us to


the contrary ) that this Story  
was real, and no fiction ; I re-  
solved at length to conde-  
scend to his desire , and to  
adventure upon the Transla-  
ting of a Book, which I heard  
had received such general  
commendations ; how deser-  
vedly ( since Mens fancies  
are so different ) I shall not  
take upon me to determine,  
but shall leave that, together  
with the Translation, to be ei-  
ther approved of, or condem-  
ned, by the judicious Reader.

THE



THE  
French Bookseller  
TO THE  
READER.

---

HE respect which  
we owe to the Il-  
lustrious Name  
which this Book  
bears for its Title, and the con-  
A 4 sideration



sideration which we ought to have  
for the Eminent Persons which  
are descended from them who  
have born it, obliges me to say  
(not to fail of respect either to-  
wards the one, or the other)  
that it has not been taken from  
any Manuscript which is re-  
maining to us of the Time  
wherein those Persons here-  
mention'd Liv'd: The Author  
being willing only for his diversi-  
on to write Adventures, invent-  
ed



ed to please his fancy, has judged it more proper to take names known in our Histories, then to make use of those which are found in Romances ; believing that the Reputation of the Princess of Monpensier would not be at all blemished by a relation which in effect is fabulous. If this be not his opinion, I have endeavour-ed to make an amends for it by this Advertisement, which will prove as advantageous to the  
Author,

*Author, as it will appear re-  
spectfull from me, both towards  
the Dead, who are interess'd in  
it, and towards the Living whom  
it may concern.*

---

**THE**



THE  
PRINCESS  
OF  
Monpenfier.

**W**Hil't the Rage and fury of  
a Civil War (during the  
reign of *Charles the ninth*;) rent  
*France* in pieces; Love  
was not wanting to find  
room amidst those disorders; and to cause  
as great in his own Empire, as the Ambition,

tion, and self-ends of some Great Ones caused in that Dominion.

The only Daughter of the Marquesse of *Mezieres*, an Heiress very considerable, no less for her great Estate, than for her alliance to the Illustrious House of *Anjou*, from whence she was descended; was promised in marriage to the Duke of *Maine*, a younger Brother to the Duke of *Guise* ( since called *Balafre*. ) The only want of years in this great Heiress seem'd to retard her marriage: during which time the Duke of *Guise*, who saw her often, discovering in her the early appearances of a Beauty ( which age in a short time was like to render most accomplish'd ) grew exceeding amorous of her, and his passion prov'd so favourable to him that he received a reciprocal return of his affection.

They long ( with care ) conceal'd their Love, the Duke of *Guise* ( who was not then possess'd with so much ambition, as since ) ardently wished to marry her; but the  
fear

fear to displease the Cardinal of *Lorrain*, who served him instead of a Father, hindered him from declaring his intentions.

In this condition were affairs, when as the House of *Bourbon*, who could not but with envy behold the rise of that of *Guise*, perceiving the advantage which they would receive by this marriage, resolved to deprive them of it, and to make it advantageous to themselves, in procuring this Heiress to marry the young Prince of *Monpensier*.

Endeavours were used to execute this design with such success, that the friends of *Mademoiselle de Mezieres*, contrary to the promises which they had made to the Cardinal of *Lorrain*, resolved to bestow her in marriage on that young Prince. The whole house of *Guise* were extreamly surpriz'd at their proceedings, but the Duke, above the rest, seemed to be overwhelmed with grief ; the interest of his Love made him receive this breach of  
their



their word as an unsufferable affront ; and in spite of all the perswasions and endeavours ' us'd to the contrary ( by the Cardinal of *Lorrain* , and the Duke of *Anmale*, his Uncles , who would not appear too obstinate in a business which they perceived beyond their power to hinder ) his resentment soon appear'd, and with such violence too in the very presence of the Prince of *Monpensier* , that from thence proceeded a hatred between them, which finished not, but with their Lives.

*Madamoiselle de Mezieres*, importun'd by her Relations to marry that Prince, and perceiving otherwise that 'twas impossible for her to marry the Duke of *Guise*, besides her vertue prompting her, that 'twas dangerous to have that Person for a Brother-in-Law, whom she had wished for as a Husband , in the end resolv'd to follow the inclination of her friends, and conjur'd the Duke of *Guise* no longer, by  
any



any new obstacle to divert their marriage.

In fine she married the Prince of *Monpensier*, who shortly after carried her to *Champigni* ( the usual seat belonging to the Princes of his family ) withdrawing her from *Paris*, where the burthen of the war was like to fall heaviest ; that great City being menac'd to sustain a siege from the *Huguenots* Army, of which the Prince of *Conde* was General, who now for the second time had begun to declare War against the King.

The Prince of *Monpensier* even in his childhood had contracted a firm, and particular friendship with the Count of *Chabanes*, who was a man far more advanc'd in years than himself, and a person of extraordinary merit. This Count had been so sensible of the esteem, and of the confidence which this young Prince repos'd in him, that contrary to the engagements which he had made to the  
 Prince

Prince of *Conde*, who gave him hopes of considerable employments in the *Huguenots* party, he declar'd himself for the Catholics; since he could not resolve to be opposite in any thing to a Person, that was so dear to him. This alteration of Party having no other known foundation, it was doubted whether it were real or no; and the Queen-Mother, *Catherine de Medicis*, had such great suspicions of him, that the War being declar'd by the *Huguenots*, she had a design to arrest him, and to secure his Person, had not the Prince of *Montpensier* endeavour'd to hinder it, and carried *Chabanes* to *Champigni*, in company with his Wife.

The Count being of a very pleasant, and very agreeable humour, he soon gain'd the esteem of the Princess of *Montpensier*, and in a short time she repos'd no less confidence in him, and had no less amity for him, then had the Prince her Husband. *Chabanes* on his side beheld with admiration

admiration so much Beauty, Wit, and Vertue; which appear'd in this young Princess, and making use of the friendship which she shewed him to inspire her with the principles of an extraordinary Vertue, and worthy of the greatness of her birth; he in a small time render'd her one of the most accomplish'd Persons in the world.

The Prince being return'd to Court, (call'd thither by the continuation of the War) the Count remain'd alone with the Princess, and began to have a respect, and an amity for her, proportionable both to her quality, and merits. The confidence which they repos'd in each other, augmented on both sides, but grew so great on the Princess of *Monpensiers* part, that she acquainted him with the inclination and affection which she had had for the Duke of *Guise*: but she inform'd him also at the same instant, that her Love was now almost extinct, and that there remain'd no more at present, then what

was requisite to defend her heart, from any such other inclination; and that her Vertue, joyning it self to the remainder of this impression, she was not capable to have any thing but disdain and aversion for all those who should dare to have any Love for her.

The Count, who knew the sincerity of this fair Princess, and who perceiv'd in her, dispositions so contrary to be ensnar'd with the inticing baits of gallantry, and courtship, doubted not at all of the verity of her words; Yet notwithstanding his Reason prov'd too weak a defence to protect him from the assaulting charms of a Beauty, in whose company, 'twas his fortune to be every day, so that at length he became passionately enamour'd of this Princess, and whatsoever shame at first posses'd him to be thus vanquish'd, yet in the end he was forc'd to submit, and to affect her with the most sincere, and violent passion, which perhaps ever was;

And

And though he was not Master of his heart, yet he prov'd so of his actions. The alteration of his mind chang'd not at all his humour, so that none suspected him to be in Love.

He took great care, during the space of a whole year, to hide it from the Princess, and he believ'd that he should alwayes have had the same desire to have conceal'd it from her. But Love produc'd the same effects in him which it generally does in all Lovers, causing in him a desire to reveal his affection, and after all those difficulties which are wont to perplex Lovers on the like occasions, he at last took on him the boldness to acquaint her with his affection, being before well prepar'd to endure the violence of that storm, wherewith the haughty humour of this Princess seem'd to menace him. But he found in her a tranquillity, and a coldness worse a thousand times then all the rigour, and ill usage, which he had expected.



She took not so much pains, to put her self in a Passion for what he had say'd ; she only in few words represented to him the difference between their Qualities, and Age, the particular knowledge which he had of her vertue, and of the inclination which she had had for the Duke of *Guise*, but, above the rest, what he ow'd to the friendship of the Prince her Husband, and to the confidence which he repos'd in him. The Count ( at these words ) thought he should have dyed at her feet, through shame and grief ; but she endeavour'd to comfort him in assuring him, that she would never remember what he had told her, and that she would never be perswaded to believe a thing which was so disadvantageous to him, and that she would ever still regard him, as her best friend.

These assurances ( as may be imagin'd ) were some consolation to the Count ; but yet he made a sensible discove-



ry of the disdain, and aversion, which the Princess had for him through her words; and the next day, though he beheld her with a countenance as unconcern'd as formerly, yet his grief and affliction much increas'd. The Princess on her part lessen'd not at all the esteem which she before had for him, she us'd him with the same affability as she was accusom'd to do: and often (when occasion serv'd) took an opportunity to discourse of the inclination which she formerly had for the Duke of *Guise*: and Fame beginning then to publish to the world those great and excellent qualities which appear'd in that Prince, she confess'd to him that she was extream glad to hear it, and that she much rejoyc'd to find that he merited the affection which she had had for him.

These signs of confidence, which had been formerly so dear to the Count, became now insupportable to him; yet he

durst not shew his displeasure to the Princess, though sometimes he presum'd to put her in mind of that which he had had the boldness to declare to her.

After two years of absence ( Peace being made ) the Prince of *Monpensier* return'd home to visit the Princess his Wife, cover'd o're with the Lawrels, and honour which he had gain'd at the siege of *Paris*, and at the Battel of *St. Dennis*. He was surpriz'd to find the Beauty of this Princess arriv'd to so great a perfection, and through an inclination of Jealousie ( which was natural to him ) he seem'd to be troubl'd at it; foreseeing well, that he should not be the only Person, to whom she would appear fair. He much rejoyc'd to see the Count of *Chabanes*, for whom his kindness was not at all diminish'd: he demanded earnestly of him a character of the humour, and conditions of his Wife, who appear'd almost a stranger to him through the small space of  
time

time which he had liv'd with her.

The Count with a sincereness, as exact, as if he had not been at all in Love, declar'd to the Prince all what he knew of this Princess capable to make him Love her; and he also advertiz'd the Princess of *Manpenser* of all things which she ought to perform fully to gain the heart and estimation of her Husband.

In fine, the Counts Passion so naturally inclin'd him to think of nothing else, but what might augment the prosperity, and happiness of this Princess, that he easily forgot how much it concerns Lovers to hinder Persons they are in Love with, from keeping a perfect correspondence with their Husbands.

Scarcely was the Peace concluded, but the War began to be renew'd again, occasion'd by the design which the King had to arrest at *Noiers* the Prince of *Conde*, and the Admiral of *Chastillon*; and this design having been discover'd, they began

on both sides to make new preparations for War, which constrain'd the Prince of *Montpensier* to leave his Wife, and to make his appearance there, where both his honour, and his duty call'd him. *Chabanes* follow'd him to Court, having fully justified himself in the Queens opinion. It was not without extream grief that he departed from the Princess, who on her side remain'd much perplext with the thoughts of those dangers which her Husband was going to expose himself to, in the War.

The Chiefs of the *Huguenots* party retiring themselves to *Rochel*, *Poitou*, and *Xaintonge* being on their side, the War grew hot, and the King assembl'd together all his forces to suppress their Rebellion. The Duke of *Anjou* his Brother (who was since stil'd *Henry* the Third) acquir'd much honour by several gallant actions which he perform'd, and amongst the rest at the Battel of *Jarnac*, where the Prince of *Conde* was kil'd. In this War,  
it

it was that the Duke of *Guise* began first to have considerable imployments, and to make it appear that he surpass'd by much the great hopes which had been conceiv'd of him.

The Prince of *Montpensier*, who hated him, both as his particular enemy, and as that of his Family, beheld with Jealous eyes the Glory of the Duke, as well as the kindness which the Duke of *Anjou* shew'd him.

After that both Armies had tir'd themselves by several small encounters; by a common consent of both Parties, the Troops were licens'd for some time, to retire to their several Garrisons. The Duke of *Anjou* remain'd at *Loches* to distribute orders to all those places which in probability were like to be attack'd by the Enemy; the Duke of *Guise* tarried with him; and the Prince of *Montpensier* accompanied with the Count of *Chabanes* return'd to *Champigni*, which was not far distant from thence.

The



The Duke of *Anjou* went often to visit the Places which he was about to fortifie, and one day as he return'd to *Loches* by a by-way unknown to those of his retinue, the Duke of *Guise*, who bragg'd that he knew it, plac'd himself at the head of the Troop to serve them instead of a Guide; but after that he had rid some time, he lost himself, and found that he was upon the bank of a small River, which was unknown to him. The Duke of *Anjou* rallied with him, and fear'd him for his ill conduct, and making a stop there (being dispos'd to mirth, as usually young Princes are) they perceiv'd a small Boat which stood still in the midst of the River, which not being very broad, they could easily distinguish objects, and perceive in the Boat three or four Women, and amongst the rest, one who appear'd to them very fair, who was in rich apparel, and who attentively regarded two men, who were in the same Boat with her, and



were a fishing. This adventure caus'd a new joy both to these young Princes, and to those of their Train. It appear'd to them as a Romance-like accident, some telling the Duke of *Guise* that he had purposely lost them only to make them have a view of this fair Person, others saying that (after what Fortune had done for him) he must of necessity grow amorous of her; and the Duke of *Anjou* maintain'd, that he was oblig'd to become her Lover.

In fine, being resolv'd to see the conclusion of this adventure, they caus'd some of their followers to ride into the River, as far as possible, and to call to that Lady, and tell her, that the Duke of *Anjou* was there, and that he would willingly cross the Water, and intreated her to come, and take him in. This Lady (who was the Princess of *Monpensier*) hearing it say'd that the Duke of *Anjou* was there, and not doubting at all (through the quantity

quantity of people which she saw on the Rivers-side ) but that it was he, caus'd her Boat to advance towards that side of the River, where he was ; His graceful Mine made her soon distinguish him from the rest, but yet she sooner took notice of the Duke of *Guise*, whose sight wrought in her such an alteration that it caus'd her to blush, which rather augmented, then decreas'd her Beauty, and made her appear to the Eyes of these Princes, as a Person supernatural, and wholly divine.

The Duke of *Guise* (in spite of that advantageous alteration which two or three years, since last he saw her, had made in her ) immediately knew her, and inform'd the Duke of *Anjou* who she was, who was at first asham'd of the Liberty which he had taken, but perceiving the Princess of *Monpensier* so fair, and this adventure so much pleasing him, he resolv'd to compleat it, and after a thousand excuses,

the cuses, and a thousand complements, he  
 is'd invented a story of some considerable bu-  
 hat siness, which he say'd he had to do on the  
 His other side of the River, and accepted  
 ish of the proffer which she made him to  
 ok carry him over in her Boat; he enter'd it  
 ht alone accompanied only with the Duke of  
 it *Guise*, giving order to those that follow'd  
 g- them to go, and cross the River at some  
 nd other place, and to come and meet him at  
 n- *Champigni*, which the Princess inform'd  
 y them was not above two Leagues distant  
 from thence.

As soon as they were in the Boat, the  
 Duke of *Anjou* inquir'd of her, to what  
 propitious Fate it was they ow'd so fortu-  
 nate an adventure; and what detain'd her  
 there in the midst of the River. She an-  
 swer'd him, That she came from *Champigni*  
 in company with the Prince her Husband,  
 with a design to hunt; but finding her  
 self too much tir'd, she came for refresh-  
 ment to the Rivers side; where the curio-  
 sity

city to see a Salmon taken (which had entangl'd it self in a Net) had caus'd her to enter the Boat. The Duke of *Guise* did not at all interest himself in this discourse, but feeling that Passion began to revive again in his breast, which he had formerly had for that Princess, he suspected that he should find it a difficult task to escape from this adventure, without becoming again her captive.

They soon arriv'd to the other side of the River, where they found the Pages, and Servants of the Princess of *Monpensier*, who there attended her. The Dukes of *Anjou* and *Guise* assisted her to get on Horseback, where she comported her self with an admirable grace. During the way, she entertain'd them with most exquisite discourse upon several subjects; so that they were no less surpriz'd and charm'd with her excellent parts, then they had been before with her Beauty, and they could not forbear to acquaint her how  
extreamly

extreamly they were amaz'd with those extraordinary perfections which they discover'd in her. She answer'd to those commendations which they gave her with all the modesty imaginable, but a little more coldly to those which came from Duke of *Guise*; being willing to use a reserv'dness towards him, which should hinder him from building any hopes upon the inclination which formerly she had for him.

Arriving at the outward-most Court at *Champigni*, they found the Prince of *Montpensier*, who but then return'd from hunting. His amazement was great to behold two men ride on each side of his Wife, but it augmented extreamly, when (approaching nearer) he perceiv'd that they were, the Duke of *Anjou*, and the Duke of *Guise*. The hatred which he had for the last, joyning it self to his natural jealousy made him find something so unpleasant to him to see these Princes in company



company with his Wife, without knowing what accident had brought them together, nor what they came to do at his house, that he could not conceal the disorder which it caus'd in him, though cunningly he rejected the cause of it upon the apprehension which he had, that he should not be able to receive so great a Prince, both according to his quality and to his own wishes.

The Count of *Chabanes* appear'd yet more perplex'd to see the Duke of *Guise* with the Princess of *Monpensier* than seem'd the Prince himself. The adventure which Fortune had made use of to bring these two Persons together appear'd to him as an unlucky Omen, from whence he prognosticated that this Romance-like beginning would be follow'd by other accidents of the like nature.

At Night the Princess of *Monpensier* entertain'd these Princes very generously, and with a civility which was natural to her.

in fine, she pleas'd her Guests but too well. The Duke of *Anjou*, who was a Prince of a comely personage, and very accomplish'd, could not behold a person so worthy of him, without ardently desiring to enjoy her; soon became infected with the same Disease which possess'd the Duke of *Guise*, and alwayes feigning extraordinary affairs, he remain'd two dayes at *Champigny*, without being oblig'd to stay by any other motive, then by the charms of the Princess of *Montpensier*; the Prince her Husband not using any intreaties to retain him there.

The Duke of *Guise*, before he departed, took an opportunity to acquaint the Princess, that he was still the same, which he had ever been, (and since his Passion had never been reveal'd to any) he often told her in publick (without being over-heard by any, but her self) that there was no change in his affection, but that at present

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he

he retain'd as much adoration, and respect for her, as ever.

In fine, the Duke of *Anjou*, and he at length departed from *Champigni* with much regret. They rid a long while without speaking one to the other, and remain'd in a profound silence, till at last the Duke of *Anjou*, imagining that perhaps their silence might proceed from one and the same cause, demanded briskly of the Duke of *Guise*, if he meditated upon the beauty, and perfections of the Princess of *Montpensier*. This brisk demand, joyn'd to what the Duke of *Guise* had already observ'd, concerning the inclinations of the Duke of *Anjou*, made him perceive, that infallibly he would become his Rival, and that it extremely import'd him, not to discover his Love to that Prince; but to deprive him of all suspicion, he answer'd him smiling; That he appear'd himself so much taken up with the imagination, wherewith

wherewith he accus'd him; that he had judg'd it uncivil to interrupt him; That the Beauty of the Princess of *Montpensier* was no new thing to him; That he had accusom'd himself to gaze on the Luster of her charms, without being dazel'd with them, ever since she was design'd to have been his Sister-in-Law, but that he perceiv'd very well, that all persons were not so well prepar'd against them as himself. The Duke of *Anjou* ingeniously confest to him, that he had never yet seen any thing, which in his opinion, seem'd comparable to this young Princess; and that he found very well, that her presence might prove dangerous to him, if he should often expose himself in her company: he would fain have made the Duke of *Guise* confess, that he apprehended the same Fate himself too: but the Duke (who began now to make a serious affair of his Love) would confess nothing to him.

These Princes returning to *Loches* enter-



tain'd themselves often with a very pleasing discourse of the adventure which had caus'd them to discover the Princess of *Monpensier* : but it prov'd not a subject of so great diversion at *Champigni*. The Prince of *Monpensier* was discontented at all which had happen'd, without being able to give a Reason wherefore. His Wifes being in the Boat, appear'd to him as an unlucky accident : It seem'd to him, that she had entertain'd these Princes too kindly ; and that which displeas'd him most, was to have observ'd that the Duke of *Guise* had regarded her very attentively.

These thoughts caus'd him from that instant, to conceive a furious jealousy, which made him to remember the passion, and resentment, which that Duke had shewn against his Marriage, and he had some thoughts, that, from that very time he had been amorous of her. The ill humour which these suspicions put him into, caus'd



caus'd sometimes but ill usage to the Princess of *Monpensier*. The Count of *Chabanes* ( according to his custome ) took care to hinder, that their private discontents, broke not out into an open quarrel, endeavouring through that, to perswade the Princess how great, and real the passion was, which he had for her, and how disinterest'd from all self-ends.

Yet he could not refrain from asking her the effect which the sight of the Duke of *Guise* had produc'd in her. She acquainted him, That she had been troubl'd at it, through the shame which she had, to remember the kindness which she had formerly shew'd him : she confest that she had found him far more accomplish'd now, then at that time ; and that his discourse seem'd to intimate , that he would perswade her to believe, that he still affected her ; but she assur'd him, that nothing was able to force her to relinquish the resolution which she had taken never to

engage her self in so perilous an Affair.

The Count of *Chabanes* was much rejoyc'd to hear this resolution; but nothing could secure him against the suspicion which he had of the Duke of *Guise*. He represented to the Princess, that he extreamly fear'd, that the first impressions of her Love would soon return, and made her apprehend the mortal grief which (for their common intrest) he should have, if one day he should see her change her present resolutions. The Princess of *Monpensier* ( alwayes continuing her reserv'dness towards him ) scarce answer'd to what he said concerning his passion, and never consider'd him, but in the Quality of her faithfull friend, without doing him the honour to take notice of him as her Lover.

The Armies having quitted their Garrisons, and being again upon their march, the Princes return'd to their several Commands, and the Prince of *Monpensier* found

it convenient, that his Wife should come to *Paris*, to be no more so near those places which were the seat of the War. The *Huguenots* besieg'd the City of *Paris*, and the Duke of *Guise* cast himself in the Town to defend it, where he perform'd such actions, during the Siege, which alone were sufficient to render for ever famous any other person, but himself.

Soon after, was fought the Battel of *Moncontour*, and the Duke of *Anjou*, after he had taken *St. John d'Angely*, fell sick, and immediately quitted the Army, either through the violence of his distemper, or through the desire which he had to return and take his ease, and to participate of the pleasures and recreations enjoy'd at *Paris*, where the presence of the Princess of *Montpensier* was not the least attracting object that drew him thither.

The Army continued under the command of the Prince of *Montpensier*, and

Soon after Peace being concluded, the Court return'd to *Paris*, where the Beauty of the Princess eclips'd the Luster of all those who till then had been admir'd; and the charming perfections both of her Wit and Person soon attracted the eyes of all the Court upon her, who consider'd her as a person that surpass'd humanity. The Duke of *Anjou* chang'd not at all, at *Paris*, the inclinations which he had conceiv'd for her at *Champigni*, and he took an extream care to acquaint her with as much through all his actions, taking notwithstanding great heed not to render her too apparent testimonies of his affection, through fear to give jealousie to the Prince her Husband.

The Duke of *Guise*, was now become passionately inamour'd of this Princess, and being willing (for several reasons) to conceal his passion, he resolv'd with the first opportunity to declare it privately to her, thereby to avoy'd all those various re-



ports, which generally springs from public Courtship. Being one day at the Queens apartment at a time when there was small company there (the Queen being retir'd to discourse about business with the Cardinal of *Lorrain*) the Princess of *Montpensier* coming in, he resolv'd to make use of that opportunity which Fortune presented him with, to speak to her; and approaching, to her, I go about to surprise you Madam, (said he) and to displease you, in acquainting you, that I have ever preserv'd and cherish'd that passion which formerly was not unknown to you, but which since (through again seeing of you) is so much augmented, that neither the severity nor hatred of the Prince your Husband, nor the Pretensions, and Rivalship of the first Prince of the Realm, are able to reprieve me one moment from its violence. It would indeed have shew'd more respectful from me, to have reveal'd it to you by my actions; but Madam, my  
actions



actions had discover'd it to others, as well as to your self; and I only desire, that you alone should know, that I am so presumptuous to adore you.

The Princess was at first so surpriz'd with this discourse, that she had no power to interrupt him; but recollecting her self, and going about to answer him, the Prince of *Monpensier* enter'd the Room, whose presence, with what the Duke of *Guise* had said to her, so disorder'd and perplext the Princess, that it posses'd him with greater suspicions, then if he had over-heard the Duke of *Guise's* discourse. The Queen came out of her Closet, and the Duke retir'd himself, to cure the Prince of jealousy.

The Princess of *Monpensier* at night found her Husband possess'd with the greatest melancholly imaginable; and he behav'd himself so passionately towards her, that he forbid her evermore to speak to the Duke of *Guise*, which caus'd her to retire

tire to her apartment; much possess with sadness, for the adventures which had happen'd to her that day.

The next following, she saw the Duke of *Guise* at the Queens Lodgings; but he kept at a distance, and came not near her, but contented himself to go out of the Room presently after her, to make it appear to her, that he had no business there, when she was absent.

Scarce a day past in which she did not receive a thousand conceal'd assurances of this Dukes passion, without that he ever so much as attempted to mention it to her, but at such a time when none could take notice of it, and as she was well assur'd of the reallity of this passion, she began ( notwithstanding all the resolutions which she had made at *Champigni* to the contrary ) to feel something of that passion return in her heart, which had formerly possess it.

The Duke of *Anjou* on his part forgot  
nothing

nothing which might declare his Love to her in all places where 'twas his fortune to see her, and made it his business continually to follow her, when she rendred visits to the Queen his Mother.

About this time, it was taken notice of, that the Princess *Margaret* his Sister ( who much affected him, and who was since Queen of *Navarr* ) had some kindness for the Duke of *Guise*, and that which discover'd it more, was, the reservedness which the Duke of *Anjou* shew'd to the Duke of *Guise*. The Princess of *Montpensier* soon learn't this news, which seem'd not indifferent to her, and which made her more sensible of the concern which she had for the Duke of *Guise*, then she thought she had been. *Monsieur de Montpensier* ( her Father-in-Law ) then marrying *Mademoiselle de Guise* ( Sister to that Duke ) she was constrain'd to see him often in those places, where the presence of both Parties was requisite to celebrate the Nuptial Ceremonies.

The

The Princess of *Montpensier* no longer able to endure a man for her Servant, whom all *France* believ'd in Love with the Princess *Margaret*, resolv'd to take on her the boldness to acquaint him, how much she thought her self injur'd. And being offended, and griev'd that she had deceiv'd her self, One day, as the Duke of *Guise* met her at his Sisters, being separated from other company, and being about to speak to her concerning his passion, she briskly interrupted him, with a tone that signified her displeasure; and replyed, I cannot comprehend why you should build such hopes upon the weak foundation of a folly, which I was guilty of at thirteen years old, as that you should have the boldness at present to make Love to such a person as my self, but above all, at such a time, when in the view of the whole Court, you appear engag'd to an other.

The Duke of *Guise*, that had a great deal of Wit, and was much in Love, had need



need to consult with no Oracle to understand the meaning of the Princesses words, answer'd her with much respect; *I confess Madam, that I have been too blame, not to despise the honour of being Brother-in-law to my King, rather then to let you suspect one moment, that I could desire to possess any other heart, then yours; but if you will do me the favour as to hear me, I am confident I shall justify my self in your opinion.*

The Princess of *Montpensier* reply'd nothing, but she remain'd still, and went not away from him, and the Duke perceiving that she granted him the audience, which he had desired, and wish'd for; acquainted her, That, without any endeavours of his own, us'd to gain it, the Princess *Margaret* had honour'd him with her affection; but that having no Love for her, "He had but very ill recompenc'd the favour which she did him, "untill such time that she had giv'n him  
"some



"some hopes to marry her; that in truth,  
 "the grandure to which this match might  
 "raise him, had oblig'd him to render  
 "her more observance and respect, then  
 "usuall, which it seem'd had giv'n cause  
 "of suspicion both to the King, and  
 "to the Duke of *Anjou*. That the oppo-  
 "sition both of the one, and the other  
 "disswaded him not from his design; but  
 "if that design displeas'd her, he would  
 "from that very instant abandon it, and  
 "never think on it more, during his  
 "Life.

This oblation which the Duke of *Guise*  
 made of his own interest to please the  
 Princess, soon made her forget all shew-  
 ing, and displeasure wherewith she had  
 entertain'd him, when he first began to  
 speak to her. She soon chang'd her dis-  
 course, and began to entertain him with  
 the weakness which possess the Princess  
*Margaret* to love him first, and of the  
 considerable advantage which he would  
 receive

receive in marrying her. In conclusion, without saying any thing obliging to the Duke of Guise, she discovered to him a thousand charming perfections, which he had formerly ador'd in *Mademoiselle de Mexiens*: and though they had not long discours'd together, yet they found themselves so accusom'd to one anothers humours, that Love which was no stranger to their breasts, soon found out a way to return again into its ancient Channel.

They thus finish'd this agreeable conversation, which left a very sensible impression of Joy upon the Duke of Guise; nor did the Princess participate a less share than he, to learn that he yet really affected her. But when she was retir'd to her Closet, what reflections did she not make upon the shame which she had, in suffering her self to be so soon overcome by the Duke of Guise's excuses; upon that Labyrinth of trouble, which she was ago-

ing

ing about to involve her self into, by engaging her self in a business, which she had regarded with so much horroir, and detestation, and upon the dismal misfortunes, wherewith the jealous humour of her Husband seem'd to threaten her, but these unpleasant thoughts were the next day soon discipated by the Duke of *Guise's* presence.

He fail'd not to render her an exact account of that which past between the Princess *Margaret* and himself, the new alliance of their Houses, often presented him with opportunities to speak to her; but he had no small trouble to cure her of the jealousy which the Beauty of the Princess *Margaret* gave her, against which all his Vows were too weak to secure her from suspicion. This jealousy serv'd the Princess of *Monpensier* to defend the remainder of her heart, against the endeavours us'd to gain it by the Duke of *Guise*, who already possess'd its greatest part.

The Kings marriage with the Princess *Isabella* ( Daughter to the Emperour *Maximilian* ) fill'd the whole Court with feasts and rejoycings. The King gave a Ball, where the Princess *Margaret*, and the rest of the Princesses danc't, the Princess of *Monpensier* appearing the only person that could dispute the prize of Beauty with her. The Duke of *Anjou*, with the Duke of *Guise*, and four others, which were of their company danc'd an Antick-dance in the shape of *Moors*, their Habits were all alike, and such as are generally us'd on the like occasion.

The first time that the Ball was danc'd, the Duke of *Guise* before he danc'd ( not having put on his vizard ) say'd something in passing by to the Princess of *Monpensier*, she soon perceiv'd that the Prince her Husband had taken notice of it, which much disturb'd her. Soon after seeing the Duke of *Anjou*, with his Vizard on, and drest like a Moor, coming to speak to  
her



her, perplex'd through her disorder, she believ'd that it was still the Duke of *Guise*, and approaching to him, Have no respect too night (said she,) but for the Princess *Margaret*. I shall not be jealous, 'tis my command, I am observ'd, approach me no more. As soon as she had finish'd these words, she retir'd, and the Duke of *Anjou* remain'd as surpriz'd, as if he had been Thunder-struck, he perceiv'd at that instant that he had not only a Rival, but a Rival too belov'd; he soon apprehended by the name of the Princess *Margaret*, that that Rival was the Duke of *Guise*, and he made no question, but that the Princess his Sister was the oblation which had render'd the Princess of *Monpensier* favourable to the vows of his Rival.

Jealousie, Despight and Rage joyning themselves to the hatred, which he had already for him, caus'd him to be possess'd with whatsoever may be imagin'd of a most violent, and impetuous passion, and



which had immediately produc'd some  
 bloody Effect of his displeasure, had not  
 that dissimulation which was so natural  
 to him ( and which at present was so re-  
 quisite ) soon rescu'd his Reason, from  
 those violent motions of his passion, and  
 oblig'd him, for several prevalent reasons,  
 ( as affairs then stood ) not to attempt any  
 thing against the Duke of *Guise*. Yet ne-  
 vertheless he could not deprive himself of  
 the satisfaction which he took to tell him,  
 that he knew the secret of his Love; and  
 accosting him in going out of the Room  
 where they had danc'd, 'Tis too much  
 ( said he ) to dare at once to raise your  
 ambitious thoughts, to pretend to my  
 Sister, and to deprive me of my Mistress. The  
 respect which I bear the King, hinders me  
 at present, from declaring my resentment;  
 But remember that perhaps the loss of your  
 life, shall be the smallest punishment where-  
 with, some time or other I shall chastize  
 your temerity. The Duke of *Guise*,  
 though

though unaccustom'd to such menaces, yet he had no opportunity left him for an answer, because the King who went out at that instant, call'd them both, to speak to them, but they imprinted in his heart a desire of revenge, which he endeavour'd all his life time to satisfy.

From that very Night the Duke of *Anjou* began to render him all sort of ill turns (that lay in his pow'r) with the King: he perswaded him that the Princess his Sister would never consent to marry the King of *Navarre* (with whom it was then propounded to marry her) so long as the Duke of *Guise* was suffer'd to come near her, and that it was a shame to suffer that one of his subjects (to satisfy his own Ambition) should bring any obstacle to a business, which (in probability) might give peace to *France*. The King bore already ill will enough against the Duke of *Guise*, and this discourse so augmented it, that seeing him next day, as he was about to enter

the Room, design'd for the Ball, at the Queens Lodgings ( adorn'd with an infinite number of Jewels, but yet more adorn'd by this graceful mine ) he plac'd himself before the entrance of the door, and tartly demanded of him, where he went. The Duke without being daunted, answer'd, That he came to wait on him ( and as it was his duty, ) to render him his most humble service; to which the King reply'd, that he had no need of it, and so turn'd from him, without taking any further notice of him.

The Duke of *Guise*, though for all this, did not forbear to enter the Room, enrag'd in his heart both against the King and the Duke of *Anjou*, but his grief serv'd but to augment his natural fierceness, and through spight he oftner approach'd the Princess *Margaret*, then he had been accusom'd to do, since what the Duke of *Anjou* had said to him concerning the Princess of *Monpensier* hinder'd him from regarding her.

The

The Duke of *Anjou* carefully observ'd both one and the other: the countenance of that Princess (though she endeavour'd all she could to conceal it) discover'd the displeasure which she conceiv'd, when the Duke of *Guise* spoke to the Princess *Margaret*. The Duke of *Anjou*, who through what she had said to him, when she mistook him for the Duke of *Guise*, had perceiv'd that she was jealous, hop'd to cause a misunderstanding between them, and setting himself down by her; 'Tis for your intrest, Madam, more then for my own (said he) that I go about to acquaint you, that the Duke of *Guise* merits not that you should make choice of him to my prejudice; let me intreat you not to interrupt me to tell me the contrary of a truth, which I but too well know. He deceives you Madam, he sacrifices you to my Sister, as he has made an oblation of her, to you. 'Tis a man that is only capable of Ambition, but since he has had the



the good fortune to please you, 'tis enough. I will not hinder him to enjoy a happiness, which without doubt I merited better than he : I should render my self unworthy of it, if I should strive longer to obtain the conquest of a heart, which another possesses, 'tis enough that I have not hitherto, but incur'd your dislike, and I would not willingly cause hatred to succeed, by any longer importuning you with the most ardent, and faithful passion that ever was.

The Duke of *Anjou*, who was very sensibly wounded both with Love and grief, had scarce power to finish these words, and though he had begun his discourse through a malicious intent, and through a desire of vengeance ; yet he grew so mollified in considering the Princesses Beauty, and the loss which he receiv'd in losing the hopes of ever being belov'd, that without attending her answer, he went out from the Ball, feigning that he found himself



himself indispos'd, and went home to his own apartment to mize seriously upon his misfortune.

The Princess of *Monpensier* remain'd afflicted and perplext, as may be easily imagin'd, to see her reputation, and her most important secret, remaining in the hands of a Prince, whom she had treated ill, and and to learn from him ( what she could now no longer doubt off ) that she had been deceiv'd by her Lover. Which added together, prov'd things that did not leave her so much Mistress of her passions, as was requisite she should be, in a place destin'd only to mirth and jollity, Yet she was forc'd to remain there, and afterwards to go and sup at the Dutchess of *Monpensier's* ( her Mother-in-laws ) who took her along with her.

The Duke of *Guise* who languish'd with impatience to relate to her what the Duke of *Anjou* had said to him the day before, follow'd her to his Sisters, but  
how

how great was his amazement, when going about to entertain this fair Princess with discourse, he found that she reply'd not to what he said, but only made him most fearful reproaches; and her passion caus'd her to make those reproaches so confus'dly, that he could comprehend nothing from them, but only that she accus'd him of infidelity and Treason.

Orewhelm'd with despair to find cause for so great an augmentation of grief, where he had hop'd to find consolation for all his discontents; and affecting the Princess with a passion so violent, which left him not that liberty to remain dubious, whither he were again belov'd, or no; he resolv'd to hazard all at once and to give her an infallible proof of his his affection. You shall be satisfied Madam (said he) I will do that for you, which all the Royal-Authority should not have obtain'd from me, nor have forc'd me to perform. It will cost me my Fortune, but  
that

that is a thing too inconsiderable to be vallu'd, to satisfie you.

Without remaining any longer at the Dutchesse his Sisters, he went immediately to find out the Cardinals his Unkles, and under pretext of the ill treatment which he had receiv'd from the King, he represented to them so great a necessity, to secure his fortune, for him to make it appear, that he had no thoughts to marry the Princess *Margaret*, that he engag'd them to conclude his marriage with the Princess of *Portia*, who had already been propounded to him.

The news of this marriage was soon known throughout all *Paris*, every body seem'd amaz'd at it, and the Princess of *Monpensier* was posses'd at the hearing of it, both with joy, & grief; she was much pleas'd to see the power which she had over the Duke of *Guise*; but at the same instant, she was as much displeas'd to have caus'd him to relinquish a design so advantageous to him,

him, as was his marriage with the Princess Margaret.

The Duke of *Guise* who had a mind that Love should recompence him for what he lost by Fortune, prest the Princess to grant him a private audience, to clear himself of the unjust reproaches which she had made him, and he obtain'd from her a promise that she would be at the Dutches of *Monpensier* (his Sisters) at such a time when that Dutches should be absent, and when he might entertain her in private.

The Duke of *Guise* soon receiv'd the effect of this promise, and had the happiness to prostrate himself at her feet, and the freedome to declare to her his passion, and to inform her how much he suffer'd through her suspicions. The Princess, who could not forget what the Duke of *Anjou* had told her, (though the Duke of *Guise*'s proceedings ought sufficiently to have secur'd her from jealousy) acquaint-

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ed him with the just cause which she had to believe that he had betray'd her, since the Duke of *Anjou* knew that, which it was impossible for him to have learnt from any other, but himself. The Duke of *Guise* knew not what defence to make for himself, and appear'd as much perplext as the Princess of *Monpensier*, to divine who (in probability) had discover'd their intelligence. In fine, in the remainder of her discourse, as she represented to him that he had been too blame to precipitate his marriage with the Princess of *Portia*, and to abandon that of the Princess *Margaret*, which would have prov'd so advantageous to him, she told him that he might well judge that she was not at all jealous of it, since that at the Ball she her self had conjur'd him to have no respect for any there, but for that Princess.

The Duke of *Guise* reply'd, that 'twas possible that she might have had an intention to impose that command upon him,



him, but assuredly that she had not done it. The Princess maintain'd the contrary ; and in conclusion , at length with disputing , and examining one an others arguments , they found that of necessity, she must have deceiv'd her self, through the resemblance of their habits, and that she her self had reveal'd that to the Duke of *Anjou* , which she accus'd the Duke of *Guise* to have acquainted him with.

The Duke of *Guise*, who was almost justified in her opinion, through his marriage, became entirely so, through this conversation. This fair Princess thought she could not with justice refuse her heart to a man who had formerly possess'd it, and who but lately had abandon'd all his ambitious pretensions for her sake, she soon consented to accept his services, and permitted him to believe, that she was not insensible of his passion. The arrival of the Dutchess of *Monpensier* ( her Mother-in-law ) put a conclusion to this discourse, and

and hinder'd the Duke *Guise* from declaring to her the transports of his joy.

Shortly after the Court removing to *Blois*, the Princess of *Monpensier* follow'd it thither, where the marriage of the Princess *Margaret*, with the King of *Navarre* was concluded. The Duke of *Guise* knowing nothing more of grandure, and good fortune, then to be belov'd by the Princess of *Monpensier*, beheld, at present, with joy the conclusion of that marriage, which perhaps at another time had o'rewhelm'd him with despair: but yet he could not so well conceal his Love, but that the Prince of *Monpensier* discover'd something of it, who being no longer Master of his jealousy, commanded the Princess his Wife to depart for *Champigni*. This command seem'd very harsh to her, but yet she was forc'd to obey it. She found means to take her leave in private of the Duke of *Guise*, but she was much perplex't to find out a sure way for him to convey

convey Letters to her ; in fine, after she had ruminated on several, she at last fixt her thoughts upon the Count of *Chabanes*, who she always accounted for her friend, without considering that he was her Lover.

The Duke of *Guise*, who knew to what degree the Count was a friend to the Prince of *Monpensier*, was amaz'd that she chose him for her confident : but she assured him so much of his fidelity, that she secur'd him from suspicion. This discourse ended, he parted from her possess't with all the grief which absence and separation (from the belov'd Person) can cause in the breast of an afflicted Lover.

The Count of *Chabanes*, who, during the time of the Princess of *Monpensier*, being at *Blois*, had been sick at *Paris*, hearing that she went to *Champigni*, met her upon the way, to wait on her thither : She now began to shew him several tokens of kindness and good will, and testified to him an extraordinary impatience to discourse  
with

with him particularly in private. But what was his surprizal and his grief when he found, that this impatiency only signified to relate to him that she was passionately belov'd by the Duke of *Guise*, and that she had a reciprocal kindness for him: his grief and his astonishment was so great, that it permitted him not to return a reply to what the Princess had said, who was so taken up with her passion, and who found her mind so much eas'd to discourse to him of it, that she took no notice of his silence, but went on with her discourse, and related to him what had happen'd to her, with such exactness, that she forgot not the least circumstance material to her story. She acquainted him how the Duke of *Guise* and her self were agreed to receive through his means the Letters which they had engag'd to write to each other.

These words prov'd like mortal wounds to the Count of *Chabanes*, to see that

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his



his Mistress would have him serve his Rival, and that she her self propounded this to him as a thing which would be very pleasing to her. Yet he was so absolutely Master of himself, that he conceal'd from her his resentment, and only acquainted her how much he was surpriz'd to perceive in her so great a change. He hop'd at first that this alteration of her humour, which depriv'd him of all his hopes, would deprive him of his passion too: but he found this Princess so charming, her natural Beauty being lately much augmented by a certain gracefull air and carriage which she had learnt at Court, that he was very sensible that he lov'd her more then ever. The great confidence she repos'd in him, in acquainting him with her secret kindness and tenderness she had of the Duke of *Guise's* respect made him discover of what an inestimable value the affection of this Princess was, and caus'd in him an ardent desire to possess it. And as his  
passion



passion was extraordinary, so it produc'd in him the most extraordinary effect imaginable, for it made him undertake to deliver to his Mistress the Letters of his Rival.

The Duke of *Guise's* absence caus'd the Princess of *Montpensier* to become exceeding pensive, and not hoping to receive any comfort, but from his Letters, she incessantly importun'd the Count of *Chabanes* to know if he receiv'd none, and grew almost passionate with him, that he had not yet deliver'd her any. At last he receiv'd one, brought him by a Gentleman belonging to the Duke of *Guise*, which he immediately carried to the Princess, not to retard her Joy one moment, which was excessive at the receiving of it, and she took no care to conceal it from him, but inviting him to participate of that which was as pleasant as poison to him, she favour'd him with the reading of the Letter to him, and the affectionate and

witty Reply which she made to it ; this answer he carried to the Gentleman that brought the other, with the same fidelity with which he had render'd to the Princess the Letter which he had receiv'd, but with far more grief. Yet he comforted himself a little with thoughts that this Princess would make some reflection upon what he did for her, and hop'd that she would prove so gratefull to acknowledge it, but finding her aversion to increase more, and more every day against him, through the ill humour which she was in for the Duke of *Guise's* absence, he took the liberty upon him to intreat her to be mindful a Little of what he suffer'd for her. The Princess whose inclinations were soly fixt upon the Duke of *Guise*, and who found none (in her opinion) but him alone worthy to adore her, resented so ill that any other should dare to pretend Love to her, that she treated the Count of *Chabanes* worser on this occasion,

caſſion, then ſhe had done at firſt, when he mention'd Love to her. And though his paſſion, as well as his patience, was extream, and had appear'd to be ſo upon all occaſions, yet he departed from the Princeſs, and went to a friends houſe ( not far diſtant from *Champigni* ) from whence he writ to her with all the paſſion, which ſo ſtrange a procedure could inſpire him with, but yet too with all the reſpect that was due both to her Quality and Perſon, and by his Letter took an Eternal farewell of her.

The Princeſs began to repent her ſelf to have diſoblig'd a man, over whom ſhe had ſuch pow'r; and being unwilling to looſe him, not only through the amity which ſhe had for him, but alſo through the intereſt of her Love, ( to ſerve her in which his friendship was extreamly requiſite ) ſhe ſent him word that ſhe deſir'd yet once more to ſpeak with him, and that afterwards ſhe left him the liberty to diſpoſe of himſelf as he pleas'd. Lo-

witty Reply which she made to it ; this answer he carried to the Gentleman that brought the other, with the same fidelity with which he had render'd to the Princess the Letter which he had receiv'd, but with far more grief. Yet he comforted himself a little with thoughts that this Princess would make some reflection upon what he did for her, and hop'd that she would prove so gratefull to acknowledge it, but finding her aversion to increase more, and more every day against him, through the ill humour which she was in for the Duke of *Guise's* absence, he took the liberty upon him to intreat her to be mindful a Little of what he suffer'd for her. The Princess whose inclinations were soly fixt upon the Duke of *Guise*, and who found none (in her opinion) but him alone worthy to adore her, resented so ill that any other should dare to pretend Love to her, that she treated the Count of *Chabanes* worse on this occasion,

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Lovers are generally very weak, and are soon o'recome by any thing that bears but the least shape of incouragement when once in Love. The Count obey'd her message, and return'd, and in less then in the space of one hour the Beauty of the Princess of *Monpensier*, her Wit, and some obliging words, render'd him more submissive, and more her slave then ever. Nay he gave her too immediately the Letters, which he had but then newly receiv'd from the Duke of *Guise*.

About this time, the desire which they had at Court to cause the chief of the *Huguenot*-Party to come thither, to effect that execrable design, which was executed on *St. Bartholomewes* day, made the King (the better to delude them) to send away from about him all the Princes of the house of *Bourbon*, and of the house of *Guise*. The Prince of *Monpensier* return'd to *Champigni*, where his presence serv'd but to o'rewhelm the Princess his Wife with grief. The

The Duke of *Guise* retir'd himself in the Countrey to the Cardinal of *Lorraine's* his Unkles, where Love, and want of imployment, caus'd so violent a desire in him to see the Princess of *Monpensier*, that without considering what he did hazard both for her and himself, he feign'd a journey, and leaving all his train at a small village on the way, he took only with him that Gentleman, who already had made several journeys to *Champigni*, and took Post thither: and as he had no other Person to make his address to, but to the Count of *Chabanes* he caus'd his Gentleman to write him a Note, by which the Gentleman intreated him to come and meet him at a place which he appointed him:

The Count of *Chabanes*, believing that it was only to receive Letters from the Duke of *Guise*, went and met him, but he was extreamly surpriz'd, and no less afflicted, when he saw the Duke of *Guise*, his affliction

ction equalling his amazement. The Duke, prepossess'd with his design took no more notice of the Counts perplexity, then the Princess of *Monpensier* had done of his silence, when she related her Love to him. He began to exaggerate his passion to him, and to make him believe that he should infallibly die, if he did not obtain for him from the Princess, the permission to see her. The Count of *Chabanes* answer'd him coldly. That he would acquaint the Princess with all that he desir'd, and that he would come and return him an answer.

Their discourse ended, he return'd to *Champagni* assaulted by such various passions, that sometimes their violence depriv'd him of his Reason, and he often took a resolution to return to the Duke of *Guise* without acquainting the Princess of *Monpensier* with his being there; but the exact fidelity which he had promis'd her soon chang'd that resolution.

He

He arriv'd at *Champigni*, without knowing what he had best to do, but being inform'd that the Prince of *Monpensier* was gone out a hunting, he went directly to the apartment of the Princess, who seeing him troubled, caus'd her women immediately to retire, to know the subject of that disorder: he told her ( moderating his grief as much as possible ) that the Duke of *Guise* was within a league of *Champigni*, and that he passionately desir'd to see her.

The Princess at the relation of this unexpected newes gave a great cry, and her disorder seem'd to be little less then that of the Count. Her love at first represented to her the joy, which she should have to see a man whom she so tenderly affected; but when she consider'd how contrary this action was to those strict rules of vertue which she alwayes practiz'd, and that she could not see her Lover, but by suffering him at midnight to enter her apartment.

apartment, she found her self perplext  
extreamly.

The Count of *Chabanes* ( who attended  
her answer as an Oracle to pronounce  
to him either Life, or Death ) judging of  
the incertainty of the Princesses resolution  
by her silence, ventur'd to speak to her, to  
represent to her all those dangers which  
she would through this interview expose  
her self too, and being willing that she  
should perceive that he made her not this  
discourse upon the account of his own  
int'rest he told her. If Madam, after all  
which I have represented to you, your  
passion is yet more prevalent with you  
then my Arguments, and that you desire  
to see the Duke of *Guise*, let not my con-  
sideration ( if that of your own int'rest  
does not do it ) hinder you from obtain-  
ing your wilhes. I will not deprive a  
Person I adore of so great a satisfaction, nor  
cause her to search for persons less faithful  
then my self to procure it for her. Yes

Madam



Madam if you consent, I will go this very Night, and find the Duke ( since 'tis too hazardous to leave him longer where he is ) and bring him here to your apartment. But by what way, and how, said the Princess, interrupting him. Ah Madam ( cry'd the Count ) 'tis done already, since you only deliberate upon the means, that fortunate Lover shall come Madam: I will bring him through the Park, give order only to one of your Women ( in whom you most confide ) that she should let down precisely at midnight, the little draw-bridge which reaches from your Anti-chamber to the Garden, and do not disquiet your self about the rest. Finishing these words, he rose up from his seat, and without attending any further consent from the Princess of *Montpensier*, he went out and took horse, and went to find out the Duke of *Guise*, who with an extream impatiency expected him.

The

The Princess of *Monpensier* remain'd so troubl'd at what had happen'd that it was some time before she came to her self again; but as soon as she had recover'd the use of her reason, her first intention was to have had the Count of *Chabanes* call'd back, and to forbid him to bring the Duke of *Guise* thither, but it lay not in her power to put this thought in execution. She imagin'd that without calling of him back again, it was only requisite not to let down the Draw-Bridge to spoil their design, and she believ'd that she should have continued in that resolution, but when the hour of appointment was come, she could no longer resist against the Desire which she had to see a Lover whom she judg'd so worthy to adore her; and she instructed one of her woman with all, that was requisite to introduce the Duke of *Guise* into her apartment.

In the interim that Duke & the Count of  
*Chabanes*

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*Chabanes* approach'd near to *Champigni*, but in a very different condition; the Duke abandon'd his mind only to Joy, and to whatsoever hope and good success, inspires of most agreeable, and pleasing into a Lover: but the Count, on the contrary, abandon'd himself over to despair and rage, which mov'd him a thousand times (had not his honour, and the Baseness of the action prevented him) to have thrust his Sword through the body of his Rival. At last they arriv'd at *Champigni*, where they left their horses with the Duke of *Guise's* Page, and passing through the breaches, which were in the wall, they ent' red in the Garden.

The Count of *Chabanes*, amidst his despair, alwayes retain'd some hopes that the Princess of *Monpensiers* reason would at length return, and aid her against her passion, and that in the end she would take a resolution not to see the Duke of *Guise*: but when he saw the Draw-Bridge  
let

let down, he could then no longer doubt the contrary, and at that instant his passion grew so violent, and so unruly that he was ready to have executed the last effects of his despair; but recollecting himself, and thinking that if he made a noise, he should apparently be heard by the Prince of *Monpensier* (whose apartment look'd out upon the same Garden) and that all that confusion would in the end light upon the persons whom he most affected, his rage (no longer agitated by the violence of his passion) immediately grew calm, and suffer'd him to accomplish his design, and to conduct the Duke of *Guise* to the feet of his Princess: where not being able to be a witness of their discourse (though the Princess testified to him, that she desir'd it, and though he wish'd it himself) he retir'd into a small passage (which was contingent to the Prince of *Monpensier's* Lodgings) being perplext with the most sad and dismall thoughts, that did

ever

ever possess the mind of a disconsolate Lover.

In the mean while, though in their passage over the Draw-bridge they had been careful to make but small noise: yet the Prince of *Monpensier*, (who through misfortune ) awak't at that instant, heard them, and caus'd one of his Gentlemen, belonging to his chamber, to rise, to see what it was. The Gentleman put his head out of the window, and though the night was dark, yet through its obscurity, he could discover light enough to perceive that the Bridge was let down: he advertiz'd his Master of it, who presently commanded him to go into the Park, and see what was the matter. Immediately after he rose up himself, being disquieted, with thinking that he heard some body walk about, and came directly to the apartment of the Princess his Wife, which was opposite against the Bridge.

At the very instant when he approach'd  
that



that small passage, where the Count of *Chabanes* was, it chanc'd that the Princess of *Monpensier* who was asham'd to find herself alone with the Duke of *Guise*, intreated the Count several times to enter in her chamber, but he alwayes excus'd himself, and as she continued still pressing him, (possess'd with grief and passion) he answer'd her so loud, that he was heard by the Prince of *Monpensier*, but so confus'dly, that the Prince only hear'd the voice of a man, without distinguishing that of the Count.

An adventure of the like nature had given cause of suspicion to a mind possess'd with more tranquility, and less jealousy than this Prince: so that it soon produc'd in him an effect both of rage and fury, which made him knock with impetuosity at the Princesses chamber door, and calling aloud to cause it to be open'd, he gave the greatest surprize imaginable to the Princess, the Duke of *Guise*, and to  
the

the Count of *Chabanes*, and this last hearing the Princes voice , soon apprehended that it was impossible to hinder him from being perswaded, but that there was some body in the Princess his Wives Chamber, and the greatness of his passion representing to him, that if he found the Duke of *Guise* there , the Princess of *Monpensier* would have the affliction to see him murder'd before her Eyes, and that the very life it self of this Princess would not be secur'd from danger ( these thoughts inspiring him with a resolution worthy of himself ) he resolv'd by an unparallel'd Generosity, to expose himself to the Princes fury, to save from ruine an ungratefull Mistress and a Beloved Rivall ; and whil'st the Prince gave a thousand knocks at the Door, he went to the Duke of *Guise*, who knew not what Resolution to take , and committed to the care of the Princess of *Monpensiers* Woman, who had assisted them to enter by the Draw-bridge, to conduct

F

him

him out by the same way, whilst that he oppos'd himself to sustain the Princess's fury.

Scarce was the Duke got out of the Anti-chamber, but the Prince, having forc'd the passage door, enter'd in the Chamber as a man possess'd with rage and fury, and who sought an object against whom he might vent his displeasure. But when he saw no body but the Count of *Chabanes*, and that he saw him remain unmovable, leaning upon the Table, with a countenance in which sadness was represented in its lively colours, he remain'd unmovable as the other, and his surprize was so excessive to find alone, and at mid-night in his Wives Chamber, the only man for whom he had the greatest kindness in the world, that it so disorder'd him, that it left him not the power to speak. The Princess was laid down upon some Cushions, in a condition ready to faint away, and perhaps Fortune never represented three  
Persons

Persons in a state more worthy of Commiseration.

In Fine, the Prince of *Montpensier* who could scarce believe his Eyes, and give credit to what he saw, but imagin'd it to be some fallacy, or some illusion, and who had an intent to disengage himself from that Chaos of confusion in which this adventure had invellopp'd him, and addressing his speech to the Count in a tone which shew'd that he yet retain'd a kindness for him; What is't I see (said he) is't reall, or is't some illusion? Is't possible, that a man whom I have lov'd so dearly, should choose my Wife above all others to seduce her? And you Madam (said he) turning to the Princess, was it not sufficient to deprive me of your heart, and of my honour, without depriving me of the only man capable to comfort me in these misfortunes. Answer me either the one, or the other (continued he) and clear me from the suspicions that I have

conceiv'd of an accident, which I cannot believe to be such as it appears.

The Princess remain'd unable to answer, and the Count of *Chabanes* open'd several times his lips, without being able to bring forth a word, but at last, I am criminall (said he) as to what concerns you, and unworthy of the friendship which you have shewn me, but 'tis not after the nature, which perhaps you may imagine. I am my self more misfortunate, and in a more desperate condition then you. My death shall revenge you, of what I have been culpable of towards you, and if you will deprive me of Life presently, 'tis the only favour which you can bestow upon me that will be acceptable, and welcome to me.

These words ( utter'd with a mortall grief, and an air which sufficiently declar'd his innocency ) in stead of clearing the Prince of *Monpensier* from his suspicions, perswaded him more, and more to believe that



that there was some hidden myſterie conceal'd in this adventure, which ſurpaſt his imagination to divine, and his deſpair augmenting through this incertainty. Either deprive me of life your ſelf (ſaid he) or give me ſome explanation of your words. I comprehend nothing, you owe this ſatisfaction to my moderation, ſince any other, but my ſelf, before this, would have imprinted characters of vengeance upon your heart for ſo ſenſible an affront, and have ſacrific'd your life, to expiate your crime. The evidences are very falſe (anſwer'd the Count in interrupting him,) Ah they are too viſible and too apparent (reply'd the Prince) I muſt revenge my ſelf firſt, and then ſearch out the myſterie of this adventure at leiſure.

In ſaying theſe words he drew near to the Count of *Chabanes* with the action of a man poſſeſt with rage and fury. The Princeſs fearing ſome miſchief would follow (which though could not well hap-

pen , since her Husband had no Sword about him ) rose to cast her self between them, but her faintness was so great, that it forc'd her to sink under this endeavour, for as she approach'd the Prince her Husband, she fell down in a swoond at his feet.

The Prince was yet more concern'd at his Wives fainting, then he had been at the tranquillity which he found posselt the Count when he approach'd him, and not being able longer to endure the sight of two persons who gave him such cause for grief and discontent, he turn'd his head on the other side, and threw himself upon his Wives bed, orewhelm'd with an unimaginable grief.

The Count of *Chabanes* penetrated with repentance, to have abus'd a friend from whom he receiv'd so many tokens of kindness, and finding that he could never make amends for what he had committed, departed hastily out of the Chamber, and  
passing

passing through the Princes apartment, of which he found the doors open, he descended into the Court, took horse, and guided only by his despair, he wander'd up and down the Countrey till at length he arriv'd at *Paris*.

In the interim, the Prince of *Monpensier*, who saw that the Princess return'd not from her swoond, left her to the care of her Women, and retir'd into his Chamber, possess'd with a mortal grief.

The Duke of *Guise*, who was got safe out of the Park, without almost knowing what he did ( so much he was troubl'd at what had happen'd ) departed some few Leagues from *Champigni*, but he could go no further, without hearing some news of the Princess; which caus'd him to stay in a Forrest, and to send his Page to enquire of the Count of *Chabanes*, what had succeeded that misfortunate adventure.

The Page could not find the Count of *Chabanes*, but he learnt from others, that

the Princess of *Monpensier* was extraordinary ill. The Duke of *Guises* disquiet was much augmented by what his Page related to him, but without being able to hinder it, or to receive any comfort, he was constrain'd to return to his Unkles, least he should give them cause of suspicion through his longer absence.

The Duke of *Guises* Page had indeed related to him the truth, in telling that the Princess of *Monpensier* was extream ill, for the truth was, that as soon as her Women had got her to bed, she was seiz'd with so violent a Feaver, and withall began to grow so light-headed, that from the very second day of her sickness, her Life was in extream danger, and her recovery was much fear'd.

The Prince feign'd to be sick too, to the end that none should be amaz'd why he enter'd not into his Wives Chamber, but the order which he receiv'd to return to Court, whither all the Catholick Princes were summon'd

summon'd to exterminate the *Huguenots*, hope him out of the perplexity into which this adventure had plung'd him, and he return'd to *Paris* not knowing what he ought either to hope, or fear concerning the Princess his Wives distemper. He was but scarce arriv'd there, when they begun to attacque the *Huguenots* in the person of one of the Cheifs of their Party, the Admiral of *Chastillon*, and two dayes after was perform'd that horrible Massacre, for its execrableness, so famous throughout all *Europe*.

The poor Count of *Chabanes*, who came with an intent to conceal himself in one of the remotest parts of the Suburbs of *Paris*, there to abandon himself over entirely to his grief, was invellop'd in the *Huguenots* ruine. The Persons where he lodg'd having known him, and remembering that he had been suspected to be of that Party, murder'd him that very night which prov'd so fatal to several persons. In the morn-  
ing



ing the Prince of *Montpensier* going out of Town to distribute some orders to keep all in peace and quietness, past through the Street where the murder'd body of *Chabannes* lay. At first he was seiz'd with astonishment at the sight of this deplorable spectacle, but afterwards his friendship reviving, it caus'd in him some grief, but the remembrance of the affront which he believ'd he had receiv'd from the Count at length gave him joy, and he seem'd contented ( without any endeavours of his own ) to see himself reveng'd by Fortune.

The Duke of *Guise's* thoughts being taken up with a desire to revenge his Fathers death ( and soon after being overjoy'd to have accomplish'd it ) his affection by degrees began to diminish, and to grow less and less for the Princess of *Montpensier*, and he began to be less concern'd to hear from her then formerly, and finding that the Marchioness of *Neirmonstier*, a Person pos-

selt

fest with a great deal of Wit and Beauty, gave him more encouragement and hopes than that Princess, he engag'd himself entirely to her, and lov'd her with an unexpressable passion, which endur'd till death (which at last frees us from all our passions) put an end to their affection.

In the mean while, after that the Princess of *Monpensier's* disease was arriv'd to the height, it began to decrease, she recover'd again the use of her reason, and finding her self somewhat comforted through the absence of the Prince her Husband, she gave some assurance, and hopes of her recovery, her health notwithstanding return'd not to her but with great trouble, through the ill disposition of her mind, which was again of a new perplext, when she bethought her self, that she had hear'd no news at all of the Duke of *Guise*, during the whole time of her sickness. She enquir'd of her Women, if they had seen no body that came from him, and if they had receiv'd

receiv'd no Letters, and finding nothing which answer'd her expectations, and which she had wish'd for, she imagin'd her self to be the most unhappy Person in the world to have hazzarded all, for a man who in the end forsook her, and it yet prov'd a new addition to her misfortunes, to learn the death of the Count of *Chabanes*, which she soon heard of ( through the care which the Prince her Husband took to have her acquainted with it ) and the Duke of *Guise's* ingratitude made her more sensible of the loss of a man whose fidelity was so well known to her.

Such heavy discontents soon forc'd her to sink under their weight, and reduced her into a condition far more dangerous than that from which she was but lately escap'd, and as the Marchioness of *Noirmouster* was a Person who took as great care to have the addresses which were made to her taken notice of, as others did to conceal them : those of the Duke of *Guise* soon be-  
came

came so publick, that at as great a distance, and as sick as the Princes of *Monpensier* was, she heard them confirm'd from so many hands, that she could no longer doubt of her misfortune.

This news prov'd fatall to her life, and now her courage grew too weak longer to sustain the weight of her misfortunes, she could no longer resist against the grief which she had to have lost the estimation of her Husband, the heart of her Lover, and the most faithful'st friend that ever was. She dyed in few dayes after in the prime of her age, one of the most Beautiful'st Princesses of the world, and who without doubt had been the most happiest, if Vertue and Prudence had but had the conduct of her actions.

*F I N I S.*